

REMARKS

The Examiner states:

Restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.S.C. 121:

- I. Claims 1-2 are, drawn to a clamp in a semiconductor environment, classified in class 257, subclass 666+.
- II. Claims 3-16, drawn to a structure, classified in class 439, subclass 73.

Applicants hereby elect, with traverse, Group II, Claims 3-16. Further, Claims 1-2 have been amended to depend from Claim 3 and are thus entitled to examination.

The election is hereby made with traverse in that this second restriction requirement amounts to unwarranted piecemeal prosecution. As set forth in the MPEP § 707.07(g):

Piecemeal examination should be avoided as much as possible. (Page, 700-122, Rev. 2, May 2004.)

Applicants note that a restriction requirement was previously made in the Office Action dated December 22, 2003. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully traverse this second restriction requirement and request reconsideration and withdrawal.

Claims 1-16 are pending in the application. If the Examiner has any questions relating to the above, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned Attorney for Applicant(s).

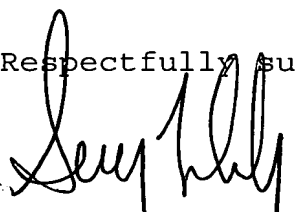
CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on August 4, 2004.

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Attorney for Applicant(s)

August 4, 2004  
Date of Signature

Respectfully submitted,

  
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